

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44bis)

Applicant's or agent's file reference BPMONS009BWO	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See item 4 below
International application No. PCT/BE2004/000154	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 27 October 2004 (27.10.2004)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 27 October 2003 (27.10.2003)	
International Patent Classification (8th edition unless older edition indicated) See relevant information in Form PCT/ISA/237			
Applicant FACULTE POLYTECHNIQUE DE MONS			

1. This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 bis.1(a).

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.

In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application

4. The International Bureau will communicate this report to designated Offices in accordance with Rules 44bis.3(c) and 93bis.1 but not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date (Rule 44bis .2).

	Date of issuance of this report 01 May 2006 (01.05.2006)
The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No. +41 22 740 14 35	Authorized officer Simin Baharlou Telephone No. +41 22 338 71 30

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

REC'D 10 FEB 2005

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WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) 14 FEB 2005
see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/BE2004/000154

International filing date (day/month/year)
27.10.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)
27.10.2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
H04B10/08

Applicant
FACULTE POLYTECHNIQUE DE MONS

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/BE2004/000154

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 a sequence listing
 table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 in written format
 in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 contained in the international application as filed.
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/BE2004/000154

**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or
industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N) Yes: Claims 1-10
 No: Claims

Inventive step (IS) Yes: Claims 1-10
 No: Claims

Industrial applicability (IA) Yes: Claims 1-10
 No: Claims

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V.

- 1 The following documents are referred to in this communication:
D1 : WUILPART M ET AL: "POLARIZATION MODE DISPERSION MAPPING IN OPTICAL FIBERS WITH A POLARIZATION-OTDR" IEEE PHOTONICS TECHNOLOGY LETTERS, IEEE INC. NEW YORK, US, vol. 14, no. 12, December 2002 (2002-12), pages 1716-1718, XP001174687 ISSN: 1041-1135
D2 : US 2003/174312 A1 (LEBLANC MICHEL) 18 September 2003 (2003-09-18)
D3 : US 6 229 599 B1 (GALTAROSSA ANDREA) 8 May 2001 (2001-05-08)
- 2 Document D1, which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art, discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):
Method for characterising an optical fibre link by its beat length (L_B), coupling length (L_C) and polarisation mode dispersion (PMD) distribution, comprising the steps of
 - sending a pulsed signal along said optical fibre link and measuring the backscattered signal, after passing through a polariser (figure 4),
 - deriving the length (L) of said optical fibre, the average power difference (ΔP_i) between two successive minima of said backscattered signal and the number of maxima (N) per unit length.

From this, the subject-matter of independent claim 1 differs in that:

- in an iterative way determining a beat length interval and an interval for the polarisation mode coupling parameter (P_s), until the length (L_s) of said intervals is below a predetermined value, yielding a value for the beat length (L_B) and the coupling length (L_C),
- calculating the polarisation mode dispersion.

- 2.1 The subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore novel (Article 33(2) PCT)
The problem to be solved by the present invention may be regarded as:
to modify the method for characterising an optical fibre link known from D1 in order to improve its accuracy.
- 2.2 The solution to this problem proposed in claim 1 of the present application is

considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons:

The above prior art relates to the verification of a formula for calculating PMD using 3 different fibres. It does not discuss the cause of deviations. Since the above problem to be solved is not addressed, the solution is not obvious.

US2003/0174312 and US 6229599 utilise different parameters to calculate the polarisation mode dispersion.

2.3 Claims 2-10 are dependent on claim 1 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.

3. Observations:

- Independent claim 1 is not in the two-part form in accordance with Rule 6.3(b) PCT, which in the present case would be appropriate, with those features known in combination from the prior art (document D1) being placed in the preamble (Rule 6.3(b)(I) PCT) and with the remaining features being included in the characterising part (Rule 6.3(b)(ii) PCT).

In the present case, the features known in combination from the document D1 belong in the preamble of such a claim (see section 2. above).

- The features of the claims are not provided with reference signs placed in parentheses (Rule 6.2(b) PCT).